

NEWPORT AND GWENT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Newsletter

November 1992 (No 8)

First of all, you will have noticed the deliberate (?) mistake in the previous newsletter. The Convention will be held on 1 May next year NOT 31 April! The Federation AGM has now taken place and arrangements are in hand for the Convention which will be at the Princess Royal Theatre at the Civic Centre in Port Talbot. It starts at 11 am and entry will cost you 20p. A special souvenir card will be produced. Remember to work over Christmas on your entries for the competition evening on 17 February. The best entries will be forwarded to the Convention. There will also be a private treaty sale with a minimum lot value of £2.50. As I sold almost everything I put in for the last convention, I can recommend it as a way of getting rid of surplus material ... if the price is right, then someone will always want it!

I have sold 16 of the original supply of 17 Federation Badges. I have kept one as a spare for the club but more can be ordered so please ask.

What has happened on the philatelic scene recently? The Ebbw Vale Garden Festival was virtually a dead loss for collectors of both stamps and postcards. The post office was selling one postcard of the festival site and had no special posting facilities and could not arrange an Ebbw Vale postmark. Fisons produced a set of four sculpture garden postcards and Images produced a set of 15 large size cards, although not all of these were on sale. Rather late in the day, Newport Post Office arranged for a commemorative cover to be cancelled with a special hand-stamp. This was not available on the festival site or at Cardiff Collections. The only source appears to be the Newport Mill Street counter. I think that 1,000 were produced with a fixed date stamp of 1 August 1992 (price £2.50). Of the total, 50 were signed by David Hunt, Secretary of State for Wales (price £3.50). As the only publicity appears to have been an article in the South Wales Argus, I believe that not many have been sold. A special postmark for Newport is a rare event so it would be worthwhile getting a copy for the collection.

In the club, we started the new season with a visit to Nailsea. Martyn Britton, Gwen Hussey, Peter Coldrey and I provided the team. The first home match of the season was a visit by Brian Cartwright of Phillips who showed "a bit of this and a bit of that". It really was a marvellous evening for those who attended. This was followed by a visit from Hereford, which turned out to be a tour de force for Alan Blunt. He was accompanied by Dennis Haynes. Apologies for missing one or two meetings myself this season but unfortunately work, in the form of visits abroad on key dates, has to take precedence. This meant that I missed the excellent trip to Autumn Stampex organised once again by the Cardiff Society. I also missed the Bristol Convention at Portishead because I was on holiday in the Gower and the South Wales Autumn day at Bridgend because I was in Bristol. Margaret Harding was our sole representative at the Autumn Day. I understand that there was a lot of material available at very low prices .. remember the Autumn Day is for collectors to sell to others. Next year's Autumn Day will probably be in Carmarthen, so make a note in your diaries.

The 1992 Christmas stamps are out on 10 November. The 33p value shows a picture of a stained glass window in All Saints Church Porthcawl. I am assured that a special Porthcawl cover is being produced. I do not know the price or have any more details.

As everyone is aware, the changes in Europe are having an effect on stamp collectors. At the Federation AGM, I discovered that Ken Francis (Swansea) and Ray Price (British Rail) have both started up correspondence with people in Lithuania. I also have contacts in the area. There is a deluge of material coming in from the Baltics, from the rest of the old USSR and from the rest of the old Eastern Bloc. Some of this is wall-paper but a lot is "instant postal history". Special cachets on covers abound and with rampant inflation in Russia a lot of interesting frankings are around on commercial mail. My advice is to keep an eye on what is going on there but don't be tempted to pay high prices as there is a lot of material around.

Coming up are a visit from Cardiff on 25 November and the ladies and Christmas social evening on 9 December. If you have not managed to get along recently, do make the effort. And please tell your friends.

The next Chepstow stamp fair is on Sunday 22 November at the Old Course Hotel (formerly the Two Rivers). The next Symes fair at Cardiff City Hall is on 28 November.

John Perry
Hon Secretary

***** Ebbw Vale cover signed by David Hunt

